

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment claims 1-8 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 9-28 are presented for examination. New claims 9-28 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 9-28 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-8.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
SNS/rac

I:\ATTY\SNS\266108US-PR.DOC